

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed May 17, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 16 was previously canceled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-15 and 17 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2004, claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,186,068 (Gelbart) in view of US 6,085,650 (Petersen). The remaining claims are rejected as unpatentable over Gelbart and Petersen in view of various other references.

The present invention relates to an apparatus for setting images on a printing plate. The apparatus includes a frame 2, a mounting 3 arranged on the frame 2, and a carrier cylinder 1 which is cantilever mounted on the mounting 3 (see page 6, lines 2-3 and Fig. 1 of the specification). As depicted in Fig. 1, the frame is a standalone device which is separate from a printing machine. The mounting 3 includes a carrying tube 4 and a spindle 5 rotatably mounted in the carrying tube 4 by rolling contacts bearings 6, 7 (see page 6, lines 4-5). The carrier cylinder 1 is attached to the spindle 5 so that the carrier cylinder 1 rotates with the spindle 5 (page 6, lines 4-5). The apparatus also includes an image setting device 15 mounted on a carriage 14 which is movable on a crossmember 13 arranged parallel to the axis of rotation of the carrier cylinder (page 7, lines 1-3). The carrier cylinder 1 is replaceable by a carrier cylinder 1.2 of different diameter (page 8, lines 4-5). The image setting device 15 is movable radially relative to the carrier cylinder 1, 1.2 to accommodate the different diameters of the carrier cylinders 1, 1.2 (page 8, lines 6-9).

A sleeve-like printing plate 16 can be pushed onto the freely accessible end of the carrier cylinder 1 (page 7, lines 4-5). This configuration allows the printing plate to be changed with little effort and with low space requirements, in accordance with the object of the invention stated on page 3, lines 2-4.

Independent claim 1 is amended to recite that the carrier cylinder is replaceable with a further cylinder having a different diameter. Independent claim 1 is further amended to recite that the image-setting device is moveable radially relative to the carrier cylinder to accommodate the different diameter cylinders.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references of record teach or suggest that the image-setting device is moveable radially relative to the carrier cylinder to accommodate the different diameter cylinders. Gelbart discloses an imaging device in which a laser head 6 (image setting device) is moveable on rails 7 along the length of the carrier cylinder (see col. 2, lines 25-42). There is no teaching or suggestion for moving the image setting device 6 of Gelbart toward or away from the carrier cylinder to accommodate carrier cylinders having different diameters.

Petersen discloses a printing unit having various cylinders. Petersen also discloses that the printing machine includes laser heads 53, 54 that are movable along a longitudinal length of a cylinder in a printing machine. There is no teaching or suggestion that the laser heads 53, 54 of Petersen are movable toward or away from the carrier cylinders for accommodating different diameter carrier cylinders. Neither Gelbart nor Petersen teaches or suggests imaging printing plates on cylinders having different diameters. Therefore, there is no motivation in Gelbart and Petersen for moving the image setting device radially relative to the

carrier cylinder to accommodate the different diameter cylinders. Accordingly, independent claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Gelbart in view of Petersen.

Dependent claim 6 recites that the carrier cylinder is one of a plurality of cylinder having different diameters. Claim 6 was rejected as unpatentable over Gelbart and Petersen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,188,027 (Fantoni). Fantoni discloses a printing apparatus in which printing plates 18 are placed onto and removed from impression cylinders 5. Fantoni discloses that the impression cylinders 5 may be variable in their diameter to clamp the printing plates 18 (see col. 2, lines 10-12). There is no specific teaching in Fantoni that the impression cylinder 5 is removable from the printing machine and replaceable with another cylinder of a different diameter. In contrast, Fantoni discloses that the impression cylinder has a variable diameter *for clamping printing plates* (emphasis added). Furthermore, Fantoni fails to disclose an imaging device. Accordingly, Fantoni also fails to teach or suggest a imaging device that is movable radially relative to a carrier cylinder for accommodating carrier cylinders of different diameters, as now expressly recited in independent claim 1.

The remainder of the reference cited in the Office Action (Vermeersch, Kersch, and Fleischmann) also fail to teach or suggest an imaging device that is moveable toward a cylinder for accommodating carrier cylinders having various diameters.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent claims 2-15 and 17, being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1.

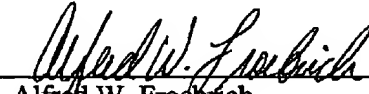
The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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